Churches and Temples.

163. * MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of churches for which sanction has been accorded by Government from 23-2-1112 up to 23-2-1120 ; and

(*b*) the number of new temples constructed by the Devaswom Department from 23-2-1112 up to 23-2-1120 ?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI (*Secretary to Government*) (*a*) 102.

(*b*) 2.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know from the honourable member the number of churches in each Division out of the 102 churches for which sanction had been accorded ?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI : Kottayam Division 47, Quilon Division 36, Trivandrum Division, 19.

MR. K. T. MICHAEL (*Changanachery cum Peermade*) : May I know from the honourable member the number of applications received for the construction of churches ?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI : I have not got the information now, but I shall collect the information and communicate to the honourable member, if required.

MR. K. T. MICHEL : May I know the number of churches sanctioned this year ?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI : I shall supply the information to the honourable member after verifying the records.

PRESIDENT : In regard to the number of applications, I may state that I get roughly one application per day.

MR. K. T. MICHAEL : May I know the number of applications for the construction of temples ?

PRESIDENT : After I assumed charge, four.

MR. P. O. THOMAS (*Kunnathad cum Parur*) : Is the Devaswom Deparment the only Department that can construct temples ?

PRESIDENT : What is the question ?

MR. P. O. THOMAS : There is a statement that the Devaswom Department constructed two temples during the period from 1112 to 1120. I ask whether this Department alone can construct temples.

PRESIDENT : Any question relating to the Devaswom Department is removed from the purview of the discussion of this House.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : There are numerous churches erected while there are only a very few temples constructed. What I wanted to know was why it was so, when even private individuals can construct these temples ?

PRESIDENT : But those individuals have to ask for permission to do so. I do not normally grant permission ; and I do not remember having received even a simple application for permission .

MR G. NARAYANAN TAMPI : No such applications have been received for many years now.

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PRESIDENT: I am fairly certain about that. There were already about 3,600 temples in the country and I made it clear that there should be no more temples, and following that there was no applications for Hindu temples after I became the Dewan.

STATEMENT RE: ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS OF Mr. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Mr. K. K. Chellappan Pillai says that he presented two adjournment motions, one to discuss the difficulties of the school children in the matter of school books and another the hardships of the agriculturists due to the situation created by the failure of the monsoons. The latter he withdrew, and the former was intended to be pressed. There was also another motion in regard to this by Mr. Bhaskar. I drew the attention of Mr. Chellappan Pillai to his motion, but there was no response, so I took it for granted that he was withdrawing. The honourable member knows, I suppose, that there is a convention that these are to be discussed on the first day. I greatly regret that I have not been able to allow discussion on this matter.

STATEMENT RE: ARREST OF Mr. P. T. PUNNOOSE.

PRESIDENT: Some time ago, it will be remembered that Government released certain persons under detention and issued a communiquè to the effect that there was no person under detention in the State. It was hoped when that communiquè was published, that there would be no occassion to take any such action as Government have been forced to take with regard to certain persons. It was fervently hoped by Government that there would be no occassion for such ill-tempered or subversive speeches or activities as would force the hands of Government to take action. As such a statement has been made and has been given a certain amount of publicity, and as now, this Government have taken action with regard to a person when this House is sitting, I think it is due to this House that I should indicate the reasons why such action was taken.

Speaking about the food problem in Travancore, on Victory Day at Alleppey, Mr. P. T. Punnoose stated as follows:—

> "In Travancore, there is much confusion, economic and political, in production and in distribution. The present Government so long as it exists, will be incapable of remedying in these respects. It is highly essential that this Government should be dissolved and a National Government established. A National Government alone can remedy the confusion that now prevails in Travancore. An administrative system of the people, by the people, for the people is needed. This is a necessity of the labourers, the S.N.D.P. Yogam and all other communal organisations. We should all unite and work for the same. The labourers and the common people who form the majority will have safety only if a Socialist system of administration comes to prevail. There is a likelihood of cloth scarcity here and if this is not remedied, people may conduct a naked procession."

Government have resolved that speeches of this kind are likely to cause discontent and foment subversive inclinations in the State, and therefore, they have been most reluctantly compelled to pass orders detaining Mr. Punnoose.

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